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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 4, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended July 30, totaled 19.5 billion ton-miles, up 5.9 percent from the 18.4 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first 30 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 569.5 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.8 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended July 30 totaled 434,065, up 5.0 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 2.3 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 2.3 percent in the East, and 7.8 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 12 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Loadings of metallic ores were up 4,957 cars (31.2 percent); coal increased by 7,557 cars (6.4 percent); but grain was down 2,248 cars (7.3 percent). Fifteen of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended July 23 totaled 111,191 trailers and/or containers, up 6.7 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 29 weeks of the year was 3,140,421 trailers and/or containers, up 5.4 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 7/30/88:

	Loadings in Week ended July 30, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	28,629	D	2,248	7.3	D	1,919	6.3
Other farm products	2,486	D	808	24.5	D	797	24.3
Metallic ores	20,842	I	4,957	31.2	D	1,495	6.7
Coal	126,128	I	7,557	6.4	I	6,370	5.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	19,240	I	1,917	11.1	I	563	3.0
Nonmetallic minerals	11,459	I	781	7.3	I	1,221	11.9
Grain mill products	10,764	I	294	2.8	I	195	1.8
Food and kindred products	11,510	D	43	0.4	I	215	1.9
Primary forest products	9,581	D	1,285	11.8	D	308	3.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,922	D	1,021	11.4	I	664	9.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,296	D	711	5.5	I	320	2.7
Chemicals and allied products	27,243	I	2,048	8.1	I	997	3.8
Petroleum products	4,884	D	285	5.5	D	290	5.6
Stone, clay and glass products	11,723	I	142	1.2	I	127	1.1
Coke	6,350	I	1,181	22.8	I	624	10.9
Metals and products	11,068	I	1,518	15.9	I	642	6.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	15,234	I	1,246	8.9	I	1,084	7.7
Waste and scrap materials	9,957	I	1,430	16.8	I	419	4.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,672	D	305	10.2	I	299	12.6
All other carloads	84,077	I	4,280	5.4	I	913	1.1
Total Cars Loaded	434,065	I	20,645	5.0	I	9,844	2.3
Corresponding week of 1987	413,420						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (30 weeks)	12,594,476	11,902,258	I 5.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
29 weeks ended July 23	550.0	509.8	I 7.9
Week ended July 30	19.5	18.4	I 5.9
30 Weeks cumulative	569.5	528.2	I 7.8

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